Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph **[0001]** as follows:

--**[0001]** This application is a U.S. National Phase of PCT/JP2005/003081, filed February 18, ~~2006,~~ 2005, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No.60/548,335 filed February 27, 2004 and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No.60/555,809 filed March 24, 2004, the contents of each of the aforementioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.--

Please amend paragraph **[0108]** as follows:

--**[0108]** The method of the present invention can be used to alter the expression in a cell of EphA4 gene. Binding of the antisense nucleic acids to a transcript corresponding to EphA4 in the target cell results in a reduction in the protein production by the cell. The length of the oligonucleotide is at least 10 nucleotides and may be as long as the naturally-occurring transcript. Preferably, the oligonucleotide is **[[ ]]**less than about 75, about 50, or about 25 nucleotides in length. Most preferably, the oligonucleotide is **[[ ]]**about 19 to about 25 nucleotides in length.--

Please amend paragraph **[0148]** as follows:

--**[0148]** Accordingly, therapeutics that may be utilized in the context of the present invention including, *e.g.*, (*i*) a polypeptide of the over-expressed gene or genes, or analogs, derivatives, fragments or homologs thereof; (*ii*) antibodies to the over-expressed gene or gene products; (*iii*) antisense nucleic acids or nucleic acids that are "dysfunctional" (*i.e.,* due to a heterologous insertion within the nucleic acids of one or more over-expressed gene or genes); (*iv*) small interfering RNA (siRNA); or **[[ ]]**(*v)* modulators (*i.e.*, inhibitors, agonists and antagonists that alter the interaction between an **[[ ]]**over-expressed polypeptide and its binding

partner). The dysfunctional antisense molecules are utilized to "knockout" endogenous function of a polypeptide by homologous recombination (see, *e.g.,* Capecchi, *Science* 244: 1288-1292 1989).--